



Mansfield Tomorrow

OUR PLAN ► OUR FUTURE

Advisory Group Meeting
Thursday, August 29, 2013
6:30 pm
Council Chambers
Minutes

Advisory Group Members Present: *Quentin Kessel, Jim Morrow, John Armstrong, Winky Gordon, Jeff Polhemus, Derek Rudd, Jonathan Sgro, Kristin Schwab, Nancy Silander, Tom Callahan, George Rawitscher, Sara Anderson, Matt Hart, Michael Daniels, Meg Reich.*

Project Staff Present: *Larissa Brown, Goody Clancy; Jennifer Kaufman, Mansfield Tomorrow Project Manager; Linda Painter.* **Guests Present:** *Betty Wassmundt, Francis Pickering.*

- I. Meeting was called to order at 6:35. Jennifer welcomed members.
- II. Minutes were reviewed and accepted.
- III. Review of Agriculture Strategy-Members made the following comments:
 - Consider including a map of farms in the Mansfield Grown Brochure.
 - Make sure that EO Smith Regional Agriculture Education Center is included in the strategy as a partner.
 - Add forestry to the strategy (several members made this comment).
 - Meg Reich mentioned that the Town may want to consider looking at how we regulate the use of outdoor wood burning stoves and the production of medical marijuana.
 - Consider Biofuels and other non-food products (medicinal plants, greenhouse operations, etc.) in the strategy. (Even if biofuels is not practical now, perhaps in the future there will be new technologies that make this viable).
- IV. Economic Development Strategy- Members made the following comments:
 - Recognize that Mansfield has a seasonal, 9 month economy, and include strategies to address this for the retail/commercial sector.
 - Include transportation and the impact of population

- Be sure to look regionally, especially to Windham; investigate possibilities of cost/profit sharing in business investment.
- Include an explanation of how Mansfield's major state grants work (PILOT, ECS, etc.).
- Capitalize on Mansfield's strengths-what makes Mansfield unique. Tom Callahan gave the example of East Burke, VT who has transformed their seasonal ski economy by adding mountain biking attractions.
- Ensure that sustainability and resiliency are interconnected with economic development.

V. Housing Strategy- Members made the following comments;

- Investigate whether or not to include a section on work force housing.
- Include state tax reductions for senior citizens.
- Ensure lighting standards are compatible with the International Dark Skies Association

VI. Next Steps- There will be two meetings in October (**October 10th in the Buchanan Center and October 30th in the council chambers**). The goal of these meetings will be to review the draft plan. A draft plan will be complete by early October. In October and early November, the plan will be available for committee and public review.